

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/803,626

Examiner

Truc T. T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

RAPP, ROBERT JAMES

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an interview on 10/11/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13,14,17 and 18.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/29/07
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/11/07.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


TRUC T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Rapp on October 11, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Please cancel claims 15-16 and 19-27.
- Please amend claims 13-14 and 17-18.

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13. A modular electronic device, comprising:

a first electronic module including a first communication mechanism configured to facilitate transmission and reception of high speed communication [inter-module] input/output signals [without direct electrical contact];

a second electronic module including a second communication mechanism configured to facilitate transmission and reception of high speed communication [inter-module] input/output signals with the first electronic module without direct electrical contact;

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a third electronic module including a third communication mechanism configured to facilitate transmission and reception of high speed communication [inter-module] input/output signals with other first and second modules without direct electrical contact;

an alignment attachment mechanism constructed to align and retain the modules relative together to one another; [and]

[an attachment mechanism constructed to retain the modules together without direct electrical contact communication of inter-module input/output signals.];

wherein the alignment attachment mechanism comprises a plurality of first protrusions and plurality of holes on each of the first, second and third electronic modules; and

wherein the plurality of the protrusions physically engaging the holes; and

wherein the high speed communication input/output signals are transmitting and receiving between the modules via the alignment attachment mechanism without electrical contact.

14. A modular electronic device as in claim 13, wherein the alignment attachment mechanism is constructed to rigidly retain the first, second and third electronic modules together.

17. A modular electronic device as in claim 13, wherein the alignment attachment mechanism comprises a magnet coupled [to each of] the first, second and third electronic modules together [module and the second module].

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18. A modular electronic device as in claim 13, wherein the alignment attachment mechanism comprises a metallic protrusion on one of the first, second and third electronic modules and a hole [aperture] comprising magnet[s] on the other of the first, second and third electronic modules [in the second module].

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach the alignment attachment mechanism are protrusion and holes on the first, second and third electronic modules.

The prior art also fails to teach the high speed communication input/output signals are transmitting and receiving between the modules via the alignment attachment mechanism without electrical contact.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T. T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2011. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Truc T. T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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TRUC T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER